

Coleen H. Sullins, Director

Division of Water Quality

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TO:

APS Staff and Other Interested Parties

FROM:

Ted L. Bush, Jr., Aquifer Protection Section Chief.

RE:

Guidelines for Collaborative Groundwater Studies

DWQ's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance North Carolina's surface water and groundwater resource through water quality monitoring programs, efficient permitting, responsible management, fair and effective enforcement and excellence in public service. The Aquifer Protection Section conducts an active program of hydrogeologic investigations that advances the DWQ mission by improving DWQ's knowledge in the following areas:

- Groundwater quality classifications and standards program, including:
 - o The occurrence of naturally-occurring contaminants
 - o Development of groundwater classifications that accurately reflect the usage of groundwater and the interaction of groundwater and surface water
- Impacts of land-applied wastes, artificial infiltration practices, or other human activities, including:
 - Potential impacts of these activities on the surficial aquifer and the secondary impacts to deeper aquifers or surface waters
 - The occurrence of "emerging contaminants" related to these activities
 - o Effectiveness of regulations and permits for these activities
- Threats to groundwater quality, including:
 - o The existence, nature, and scope of emerging or existing threats
 - Assessment of the causes and factors affecting naturally-occurring contamination, agricultural contamination, or contamination resulting from activities permitted by DWQ

APS is always interested in collaboration with other agencies and institutions in order to produce tangible improvements in the knowledge areas outlined above. While external partners may have their own separate goals for such studies, these studies frequently present unique opportunities for APS to improve its knowledge in important areas and to do so more effectively or more efficiently than if APS were to embark on such an investigation on its own. However, the primary focus of any collaborative agreement should be tangible products to improve DWQ's effectiveness, and DWQ's mission must be a key component of the study's goals.

For inquiries or further information about APS collaborative studies, contact Evan Kane at (919)715-6182 or evan.kane@ncmail.net.

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